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SOUND PRODUCTION IN AGONUM MARGINATUM LINNAEUS AND LORICERA PILICORNIS FABRICIUS.

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Our present knowledge of sound production in the Carabidae is rather scanty, but there is little doubt that it occurs in many more species than have been recorded, and in widely separated genera. To confirm this, all that is required is that collectors should observe and listen closely to their captures before consigning them to alcohol or the killing jar.

Sound production in Agonum marginatum occurs in a fashion similar to that described for Cicindela tranquebarica Herbst (Freitag and Lee 1972) and Amara familiaris Df. (Forsythe 1979). The beetle remains in a standing position with all 6 legs on the ground whilst the buzzes are emitted. The buzzing sound occurs only if the elytra are slightly raised. The wings, which are just visible beneath the raised elytra, can be clearly seen (using a binocular microscope) to vibrate as the sound is produced. No other visible movements have been noted. The sound is faint but distinct and lasts for approximately 3 seconds. Sound is produced when the beetle is first subjected to daylight under confined conditions, such as those imposed by a glass tube. Jeffrey Davies of Anglesey, Wales, recently has recorded Loricera pilicornis producing sound. He noted that the only indication given by the beetle that it was going to produce sound occurred when the elytra were opened slightly (personal communication).

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